

save up your vacation days so we can take trips to Chicago and Cancun.

Since I want to adopt a child, we'll have to get married so the social workers will think us stable. It will help if we buy a house, too. We'll sell your Toyota and buy a mini-van. I'll keep my Dodge until it dies at which time I'll look around for something economical like a Fiat convertible.

I'll work on my B.A. a class or two at a time but you'll have to work a lot of doubles what with the house payments and all so you won't have much time to read or write and the Wormwoods will stack up until you cancel your subscription altogether.

We'll attend poetry readings once in a while but eventually we'll have to give that up, too. There just won't be enough time for poetry and true love.

#### TWO SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN FACTS

1. A bathroom scale alternately placed in six positions on a bathroom floor yields six different readings.
2. The correct reading is always the lowest of the six.

— Kathy Hand

Long Beach CA

#### I HAVE COMPLETELY GIVEN UP COOKING

i have completely given up cooking. after four years of living alone i have finally called it quits. the act was gradually getting on my nerves until late last week, i guess it was, when i decided to only eat what could be consumed



without any preparation. and if i do want something hot, or even if it's just a cold sandwich, i go out and pick it up at the deli, or a diner someplace. i used to invite people over for dinner, and when i did i'd go out of my way to really put together a fine meal. but those days are over. in fact, they ended a lot earlier than last week when i gave up cooking altogether. one consequence of this naturally is that i find myself getting invited out to eat less and less. this i find doesn't bother me though, since sitting at a table eating in the midst of conversation was only serving to give me indigestion. i don't know how many times i had to leave a dinner early because of this. so, now i eat alone every night, and i do so standing at the counter next to the fridge, and maybe a meal will consist of nothing more than a slice of cheese and some celery, and then for dessert i'll have an orange, or maybe a few chunks of pineapple. i can go on like this for days. and i notice that when an urge for something more ambitious hits me i can usually satisfy myself with a slice of pizza. yes, i am becoming very thin. just recently i had to put another hole in my belt. when i stop in to visit my parents i can see that worried look in my mother's eyes. she always puts out an enormous meal when i'm there, hoping to fatten and strengthen me. and then she'll make sure i leave with enough leftovers for two, three days. i notice she never lets my father see her giving me these leftovers. maybe, in his mind, if i get thin enough i'll come around to marrying that good italian girl he's always telling me about. and i'm sure there are a lot of good italian girls out there, but until the right one comes along i'm going to have to be satisfied with simply eating a tomato with a little salt on it.

#### EXOTIC JAPANESE

exotic japanese pens all over the table and i never use them. i don't know why i keep buying them. perhaps it is because they seem so cheap considering how very swank they are. i prefer writing with a plain yellow pencil, #2 soft. and it's not just because